

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 /077 W  
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USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES  
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6089

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR  
SUBJ: TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIES TO AVEROFF'S STATEMENTS ON  
AGEAN ISLANDS

REF: ATHENS 7333(DTG 081254Z AUG77)

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) MOST MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES AUGUST  
15 RAN ARTICLE (GENERALLY ON FRONT PAGE BUT LOW-KEY) BASED ON  
SEMI-OFFICIAL ANATOLIAN PRESS AGENCY ACCOUNT OF AUG. 14  
STATEMENT BY FOMIN CAGLAYANGIL CRITICIZING STATEMENTS ALLEGEDLY  
MADE BY GREEK MINDEF AVEROFF DURING HIS RECENT TOUR OF DEFENSE  
INSTALLATIONS ON GREEK ISLANDS OFF THE TURKISH COAST. CAGLAYANGIL  
SAID AVEROFF'S TOUR HAD DRAMATIZED GREECE'S VIOLATION OF ITS LEGAL  
COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN THE ISLANDS IN A DEMILITARIZED STATE.

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2. TEXT OF CAGLAYANGIL'S STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:  
(BEGIN TEXT) "WE OBSERVED WITH SURPRISE GREEK DEFENSE  
MINISTER AVEROFF'S VISIT TO EASTERN AEGEAN ISLANDS AND HIS  
STATEMENTS ON THIS OCCASION.  
"ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES  
IN THIS REGARD, IT IS SEEN THAT THE GREEK DEFENCE MINISTER  
INSPECTED THE MILITARY UNITS SET UP ON THESE ISLANDS IN CONTRA-

VENTION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND MADE STATEMENTS THAT TURKEY WAS NOT RETURNING GREECE'S GOODWILL. HE ALSO SAID THAT THESE ISLANDS WERE VERY WELL PROTECTED.

"IF THE GOODWILL OF GREECE THAT WE DID NOT RESPOND TO IS THE ARMING OF THE ISLANDS, IT IS SURPRISING HOW THE GREEK DEFENCE MINISTER COULD EXPECT IT. THE LANDS WHICH HE SAYS ARE VERY WELL DEFENDED ARE THE ISLANDS WHICH OUGHT TO HAVE A NON-MILITARIZED STATUS UNDER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. THE GREEK DEFENCE MINISTER IS THUS EXHIBITING THE EXTENT TO WHICH GREECE HAS VIOLATED HER INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

"IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT GOOD GREECE IS EXPECTING FROM ENGAGING IN MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THESE ISLANDS. IT IS AN OPEN REALITY THAT DUE TO THEIR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFEND THESE ISLANDS WITH MERELY MILITARY MEASURES. IT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT THE STATE OF NON-MILITARIZATION OF THE ISLANDS IS A PRICE FOR THEIR LOCATION VERY CLOSE TO TURKEY. FOR THAT REASON, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT MILITARY ACTIVITIES ON THESE ISLANDS SHOULD INTEREST TURKEY VERY CLOSELY AND LEAD HER TO MAKE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THEM." (END TEXT)

3. SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN, IN ADDITION TO STORY BASED ON ABOVE, PRINTED LARGE ARTICLE, ALLEGEDLY BASED ON ATHENS PRESS REPORTS, STATING THAT A SECRET REPORT ON THE AEGEAN PREPARED BY GREEK GOVERNMENT DISCUSSES, INTER ALIA, GREEK BELIEF THAT TURKEY'S NEXT MOVE WILL BE TO CLAIM, ON THE BASIS OF THE 1923 LAUSANNE TREATY, THE UNINHABITED GREEK ISLANDS OFF THE TURKISH COAST. CONFIDENTIAL

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(END UNCLASSIFIED)

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL ACTION REQUESTED: PAPER ON "US POLICY IN THE AEGEAN" DRAFTED 5/17/76 IN S BY P.A.W. DEPORTE SAYS, ON PAGE 10, THAT GREEKS CLAIM "APPARENTLY RIGHTLY" THAT THE 1936 MONTREUX CONVENTION VOIDED THE LAUSANNE TREATY'S PROHIBITION AGAINST MILITARIZING THE GREEK ISLANDS OFF THE TURKISH COAST NORTH OF THE DODECANESE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A DEFINITE OPINION BY THE DEPARTMENT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE MONTREUX CONVENTION HAD SUCH AN EFFECT. SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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